<u>REMARKS</u>

In the final Office action and advisory action the Examiner indicated that claims 9-15 were allowed, and that claim 3 contained allowable subject matter.

Claim 3 has been amended to independent format, and is now considered to be in an allowable condition. Remaining claims 1-2 and 4-8 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, only allowable claims are currently pending in the present application.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. NGB-12970.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

Ву

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